Privatisation of NFL

2793. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) is being privatised;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) the profit/loss earned by NFL, year-wise, during the last three years; and

(d) details of the paid up capital of NFL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have decided to disinvest 51% of its equity in NFL. The expression of interest for disinvestment has been invited and the Global Advisor to assist in the progress has been appointed.

(c) The profit earned by NFL during the last three years is given below:—

	(Rs. in crore)
1999-2000	34.89
2000-2001	27.31
2001-2002 (Prov.)	40.91

(d) The paid up capital of NFL is Rs. 490.58 crore as on 31.3.2002.

Decline in production of RCF

†2794. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited is declining due to non-supply of gas in adequate quantity by the Gail during the last few days;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in production, as a result thereof;

(c) the quantity of gas which was to be supplied everyday by the GAIL, as per the agreement;

(d) the quantity of gas which is being supplied at present; and

(e) the loss likely to be suffered by the RCF due to decline in production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the last few years production in the plants at Thal and Trombay of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited has been adversely affected due to inadequate gas supply from GAIL. The loss of urea production from both the plants is estimated at around 6 lakh MT per year, which accounts to approximately 25—30% of production capability of the company.

(c) As per Gas Supply Agreement, GAIL is required to supply the following quantity of gas per day to Thal and Trombay plants of RCF:

Plant	Quantity of Gas(MMSCMD)
Thal	3.00
Heavy Water Plant	0.15
TOTAL:	3.15
Trombay	1.8

(d) Against the above commitment under Gas Supply Agreement, the gas supply from GAIL to Thal and Trombay plants is presently to the tune of 1.5-1.7 MMSCMD and 1.2-1.3 MMSCMD, respectively.

(e) Financial loss to the RCF due to loss of production arising out of gas shortage is estimated to be Rs. 50 crore.

Pricing period for urea units

2795. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement 7th and 8th pricing period, which is likely to affect the viability, and lead to closure of several urea manufacturing units in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken by Government to stop closure of fertilizer companies, due to implementation of 7th and 8th pricing period;

(c) whether Government are also considering to recover subsidy; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the period fixed for the recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Formulation of policy parameters/norms for the VII and VIII pricing periods under the retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme for the urea units is under consideration of the Government, keeping in view the prevailing consumption norms, capacity utilization levels etc. Government does not expect closure of urea units on account of implementation of these policy parameters.